

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of creating a lot containing at least one of a plurality of transportation lanes, wherein each transportation lane includes an origination location and a destination location and each transportation lane has an associated transport value, comprising:

5 creating an origination area;
 creating a destination area;
 compiling all lanes having origination locations falling within the origination area and destination locations falling within the destination area; and
10 increasing at least one of the origination area and the destination area of the lot to include more lanes within the lot until the total of the transport value of all lanes included within the lot exceeds a predetermined amount.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising compiling a list of carriers operating in the origination area and the destination area.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the origination location is a facility.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the origination location includes a zone defined by a US postal system code.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the origination location includes a city.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the origination location includes a state.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the origination location includes a nation.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the origination location includes a predefined geographic area.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the destination location is a facility.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the destination location includes a zone defined by at least a portion of a US postal system code.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein the destination location includes a city.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein the destination location includes a state.
13. The method of claim 1, wherein the destination location includes a nation.
14. The method of claim 1, wherein the destination location includes a predefined geographic area.
15. The method of claim 1, further comprising sorting the lanes by a value of transportation in each lane.
16. The method of claim 1, wherein the lanes are stored in a database.
17. The method of claim 16, further comprising removing each lotted lane from the database.
18. The method of claim 17, further comprising adding each lane removed from a lot to the database.
19. The method of claim 1, further comprising repeating the method until all lanes are lotted.
20. The method of claim 1, wherein the transport value is an estimated cost of transporting goods in the lot.
21. The method of claim 1, wherein the transport value is a quantity of goods to be transported in the lot.

22. The method of claim 1, wherein the method is performed by a computer.

23. The method of claim 1, wherein the lot is created for use in an on-line auction.

24. A method of creating lots containing transportation lanes, comprising:

creating a database of transportation lanes and estimating cost of transportation services over a predetermined time in each lane, wherein each lane is defined by an origination location and a destination location;

placing each lane having at least a predetermined value in a lot; and

combining all lanes that have not been placed in a lot, that have a common origination location, and that have a destination location in a predefined area in a lot.

25. A method of creating lots containing transportation lanes, wherein each

transportation lane includes an origination location and a destination location and wherein carriers are permitted to operate in limited origination locations and limited destination locations, comprising:

creating an origination area encompassing a first geographic area;

creating a destination area encompassing a second geographic area;

compiling all lanes having origination locations falling within the origination area and destination locations falling within the destination area; and

modifying at least one of the first geographic area and the second geographic area to increase the number of carriers that may operate in all lanes included in the origination area and the destination area.

26. A method for defining a transportation lot having at least a predetermined value, comprising:

(A) creating a database containing a plurality of transportation lanes and the value of transportation needs in each lane over a predetermined period of time, wherein each lane is defined by an origination location and a destination location;

(B) defining an origination zone and a destination zone;

(C) determining whether the value of lanes included in such database that have an origination location within such origination zone and a destination location within such destination zone is at least such predetermined value;

(D) if the value of lanes included in such database that have an origination location within such origination zone and a destination location within such destination zone is at least such predetermined value, defining a lot including such lanes;

(E) if the value of lanes included in such database that have an origination location within such origination zone and a destination location within such destination zone is less than such predetermined value, increasing the size of at least one of the origination zone and destination zone and repeating steps (C), (D) and (E).

27. The method of claim 26 wherein lanes included in lots are removed from the database.

28. A method for determining a transportation lot wherein at least a predetermined number of carriers operate in such lot, comprising:

(A) selecting an origination zone of the lot;

(B) selecting a destination zone of the lot;

(C) determining whether at least the predetermined number of carriers operate in the lot defined by such origination zone and such destination zone;

(D) if the number of carriers that operate in such lot is less than the predetermined number, modifying an area encompassed by at least one of the origination zone and destination zone; and

(E) repeating steps (C) and (D) until the number of carriers that operate in the lane is at least the predetermined number.